Germap Point La.

Thursday Morning. March 5th 63

Cousin Dan!

I received your letter last evening and as I have'nt much to do will answer it immediately. Tell your brother I will answer her letter in about a week for I dont want to write two at a time. I received one from Jo and Em and one from George Atkinson in the same mail so I got lots of news. I wrote to Jo and Em last evening and shall answer your letter and Georges to day. am sorry that you got your eye hurt Dan. it was'nt done by the explosion of a shell was it. I should hate like right well to have been to your home when you got hurt. it's a long time since I have had a chance to shake a leg. I expect I should be rather a dangerous piece of furniture to turn loose in a ball room now. I should be very apt to make some flank movements. so Henry Greenlee is married. shocking. I should'nt think he would like such work as that Dan. I dont think Bennett goes going to be home in the Am. Cooper. what has got into all the girls. or is'nt that what's the matter. Call it vanity and affection of spirits. the next news I expect to hear is that somebody has captured my finger and left us all alone for both. I reckon I shall have to go home this summer and see to things a little myself. I understand that the old troops are going to get furloughs pretty soon. if they do Bennett and I will come home this summer. maybe will get them to help you cut your grass. I dont suppose I could keep up with you with a scythe now. I have'nt done any hard work for a long. I have moved down here on the old camp about a mile and a half with the left section of my battery. we have got our guns in position in the levee commanding the river above town. it is a good location I like it better than I did our old camp. on account of the facility we have of getting everything that is

going on generally. There has been a flag of truce boat into town for four days in succession. I understand that the Rebel commander says if we don't stop burning towns and destroying property he will retaliate. I would like to know how he is going to work it. We calculate to go into camp in Vicksburg in the course of a week or ten days. If they are willing. The water is getting most too high for me this side. The canal here is about finished they are going to let the water into it today it is said it is paid to be long enough for us to boat on the river. I have not seen it very lately think I shall go down to day. it is not much over a mile for here. The last time I saw it. it was not over the feet wide and I did not believe it would ever amount to much. but they have been working for two to three thousand men on it for the last forty eight days and day. and have got it pretty near there they have got a dredge boat at work at the entrance — that will soon scour it out the Rebs have got a hundred pound parrott gun opposite the mouth of the canal which they fire occasionally but have hurt anybody yet. They threw a shell yesterday almost up to where we are. We have a little target practice yesterday getting the range along the river at different points. we can put a shell right to the spot every time.

Santa is up to the old camp, but is coming down to stay with us in a few days his health is pretty good now, he has not been very tough this winter. has wintered as well as I have I am tough and hearty. I have got a little tent all to myself for head quarters Santa is going to stay with us when he comes down. The 23d Wis. is camped within about 40 rods of us. I see some of the boys every day. Gen McClernand looks rather shin. is getting sick of the siege I reckon. I want to see a fellow to get discouraged in the army. if he does he is a green horn sure. I believe I will take another sheet of this paper so to make out a decent sized letter.

Park Row

I don't suppose I can tell any news about our movements here for you probably have all the news through the papers. You get news of all of our expeditions in the north before we know it here. Our Generals keep every thing to themselves and we have to wait for northern papers to learn what is going on. This is good policy. It suits us well enough.

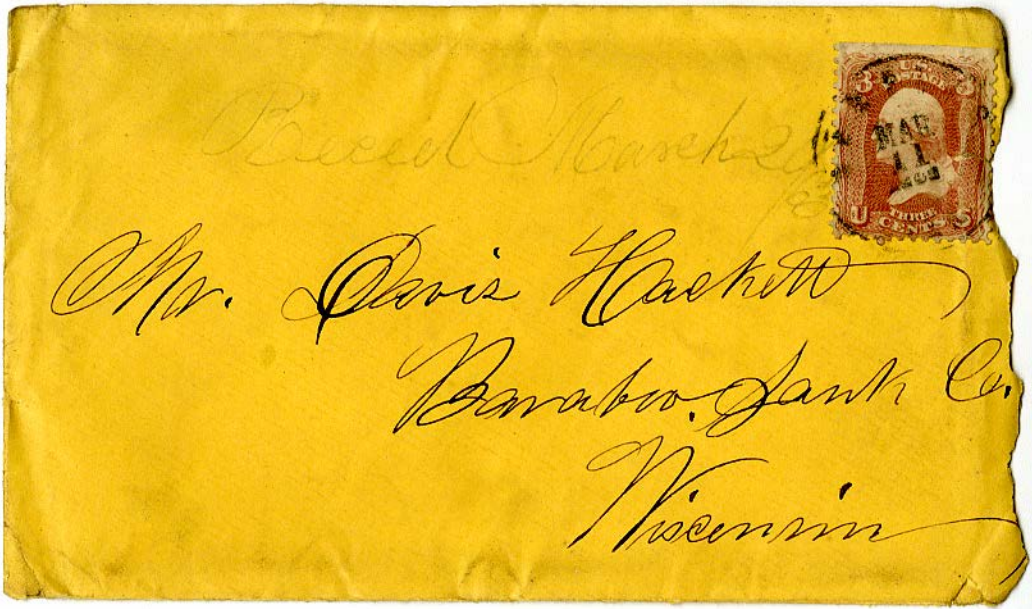
The Rebels have captured one of our Steamers lately the Queen of the West. She was just below Vicksburg on this side, and had been cruising between here and the mouth of Red River but got aground below Vicksburg on account of her former daring exploits, and finally got trapped up the Red river. She was captured at Gordon Landing on the Red river. They run within close range of the guns of the fort before they discovered it on account of a bend in the river. When they opened on her with the guns from the fort the men on the Queen deserted their guns and secreted themselves behind the cotton bales. She had on board to protect her machinery a net-work of iron rods and bars which kept shells from piercing her sides and disabled her so she fell into their hands without firing a shot. It is a pity she had not been up with the whole fleet on board. It would have saved the right for their guardian.

The report is now that the gunboat Indianola is captured. She ran past Vicksburg about the same time the Queen did and was below with her. If this be true it is a heavy loss to us. They will mean them and use them against us probably but they had not better run to close, as we have got a pretty heavy fleet here. Gun boats and Rams till we can get I wish they would come up the river and have

it. I believe they called for it yesterday
afternoon I think. What do you think
of the new conscription act. don't you call
it a good thing. it is the best news I have
heard for a long while I begin to feel
encouraged. I think there is no purpose
now of bringing this war to a close sometime
or other. we have got men and means
enough in the north to whip the Rebels
out clean in less than two months if
managed aright. and why not now. Send
and have it done at once. instead of dallying
along the way we have been for the
last two years. it would be less expense
to the government in the end.

If you have any idea of enlisting, let me
know it. for I want you to come if I am
mustered. we need about twenty one
men. I think this is the best bounty yet
offered. I don't advise you to come if you
can help it for I know you are needed at home
but if you do have to I want you with us.
for it would be better for you than going
among strangers. Have you got
any horses yet. I don't see how you
can get along without a team. I have
got a fine old horse he can pack pillows
with him I haven't heard from
you very lately the last I heard from
him he was getting along well. he was
expected to get a discharge. Dick Hamilton
Lieut. Waldbridge from Barnsboro has gone
to Beaufort to the general hospital. he has
been sick for some time

How are Silas and Irene this time
I must try and persuade Hank to
write Aldy Silas a letter. maybe he
will write to her. he won't to anybody
else. The river is high. over the fences
full in places it is half way up the levee I
expect it will drive us out in a few days
No more at present. Write often. Jim


Mr. Davis Hackett
Baraboo, Sauk Co.
Wisconsin